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The cover photograph shows the meeting of the Security Council summit on 31 January 1992.(UN Photo 179254 / M. Tzovaras)

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US plans strategic reductions

In his 28 January State of the Union Message, United States President George Bush announced major unilateral cuts in nuclear force levels.

Announcing "dramatic changes" in the US strategic nuclear force, Mr. Bush stated that the United States will shut down further production of the B-2 bomber after 20 planes already contracted are completed. All new production of the MX missile will also be stopped, and there is to be no purchase of any additional advanced (stealth) cruise missiles.

Mr. Bush also stated that, if Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States would eliminate all its land-based multiple-warhead ballistic missiles, the United States would eliminate all MX missiles, reduce the number of warheads on Minuteman missiles from three to one, reduce the number of warheads on sea-based ballistic missiles by about one-third and convert a substantial portion of its strategic bombers to primarily conventional use.

It is estimated that these reductions will reduce the strategic nuclear arsenal on each side to some 4,500 to 5,000 warheads.

This will be a significant reduction from the limits set by the START strategic arms reduction Treaty which calls for reducing the US arsenal of some 11,000 warheads on ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and bombs to about 10,000 within 7 years of its coming into force, and cutting the arsenal on the territory of the former Soviet Union from slightly under 11,000 warheads to about 8,000.

President Bush said that the cuts he was announcing had been recommended by the Secretary of Defense after consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The reductions he had approved will save the United States an additional $50 billion over the next five years. He said that these cuts were deep, and that they will go no deeper. "To do less would be insensible to progress, but to do more would be ignorant of history," he stated.

He reminded Congress that he had asked for its support in funding a programme to protect the United States from limited nuclear missile attack. Urging Congress to pass the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), he said such protection was needed because "too many people in too many countries have access to nuclear arms".

The START Treaty which was signed by the US and the USSR in July 1991 counted warheads, not missiles. Some missiles can have as many as 10 independently targeted warheads (MIRVed or multiple independently targeted vehicles).

In his statement of 27 September, he had not only announced unilateral reductions in the njmber of US short-range nuclear weapons, but had also offered to negotiate with the Soviet Union to eliminate multiple-warhead missiles.

While the new US plan to reduce the number of warheads on strategic submarine missiles represents a significant shift in policy, it does not affect the basic US view that sea-based strategic missiles are less destabilizing than those on land because submarines are difficult to detect and thus cannot be targets for any first-strike attack.□

Russia proposes deeper cuts

In a letter of 28 January to the United Nations Security Council, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced a major disarmament initiative. The following paragraphs are excerpts from that message.

....

"As the successor State to the former USSR, Russia reaffirms all its obligations under bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements in force and signed on the subject of arms limitation and disarmament and will strictly observe them.

....

"We shall organize the armed forces in such a manner that they cannot be used for purposes other than defence and peace-keeping activities in accordance with decisions of the international community.

....

"We are no longer adversaries of the United States and the other NATO countries and we consider as obsolete a situation in which we aim our nuclear sights at each other....

....

Strategic offensive arms

"The Treaty on strategic offensive arms has been submitted for ratification to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation....

".... Further to the Treaty on strategic offensive arms, we have already taken a whole series of major unilateral measures. About 600 strategic ballistic missiles have been removed from combat duty, a whole series of military programmes for the creation of new types of strategic offensive arms has been curtailed, and measures have been taken to increase strategic stability and predictability.

....

President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation at the UN Security Council meeting on 31 January 1992. (UN photo)

"In addition, I have sent President George Bush the proposals of Russia for new, far-reaching reductions in strategic offensive arms.

"Following the reductions which we have proposed on each side, there would remain a total of 2,000 to 2,500 strategic nuclear devices. In other words, the existing strategic arsenals of Russia and the United States would be radically reduced.

....

Tactical nuclear weapons

"We have also already undertaken, in parallel with the United States of America, major measures to cut tactical nuclear weapons. Currently, such weapons of the former USSR are located in the territory of three States - Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Pursuant to the agreement reached between the States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, all tactical nuclear munitions will be relocated to Russia by 1 July 1992.

"Production of nuclear warheads for ground-launched tactical nuclear missiles, nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines has been halted. Stocks of such tactical nuclear munitions will be eliminated.

"I say also that Russia will eliminate one third of the sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons and half of the nuclear warheads for ground-to-air missiles. We have already taken steps towards this end.

"With a view to the total elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, Russia will, in addition to these steps that are already being taken, cut by half its stocks of air-launched tactical nuclear munitions (warheads).

Anti-ballistic missiles and space

"Russia confirms its adherence to the Treaty on anti-ballistic missiles, which is one of the effective means of limiting the strategic arms race and an important factor in the maintenance of strategic stability.

"While maintaining this position of principle, we are prepared to continue open-minded discussion of the United States proposal on limited non-nuclear anti-ballistic missile systems. Our final attitude to this idea will be determined by the extent to which it meets the objective of strengthening strategic stability against a background of sharp cuts in strategic offensive arms.

"I declare Russia's readiness, on a basis of mutuality with the United States of America, to eliminate existing anti-satellite systems and to work out an agreement for a total ban on weapons specially designed to attack satellites.

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Prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and of the production of fissile materials for use in armaments

"Russia is resolutely in favour of all nuclear weapons tests being prohibited. We are abiding by the one-year moratorium on nuclear explosions proclaimed in October 1991, and we hope that the other nuclear Powers will also refrain from conducting nuclear tests. An atmosphere of mutual restraint would promote the reaching of agreement not to conduct such tests at all.

....

"Russia intends to continue implementing the programme for halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. Industrial reactors for the production of weapons-grade plutonium will be shut down by the year 2000, and some of them, under an accelerated timetable, as early as 1993. We confirm our proposal to the United States of America to reach agreement on a monitored cessation of the production of fissile materials for weapons.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery

"As the successor State to the USSR, Russia naturally reaffirms its obligation under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including those devolving on it as a depositary. We are counting on the early accession to the Treaty, as non-nuclear States, of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and also of the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"Russia declares its full support for the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and advocates a strengthening of the effectiveness of its safeguards.

....

Conventional weapons

"The treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe has been submitted to the Russian Parliament for ratification. There is an understanding with the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States to whose territory the applicability of the treaty extends that they will also ratify it.

"Russia confirms its intention, jointly with the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, to reduce the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by 700,000.

"Russia attaches great importance both to the talks currently under way in Vienna on strength reductions and confidence-building measures and to the forthcoming new talks, after the "Helsinki-II" conference, on security and cooperation in Europe. These new talks could become a full-time Europe-wide forum for seeking approaches to the establishment of a collective Europe-wide security system.

....

Chemical weapons

"We are in favour of the earliest possible conclusion – in 1992 – of a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons....

....

"All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are located in the territory of Russia, and it will take responsibility for destroying them. We are preparing a State programme for destroying such weapons, and are ready to cooperate in this matter with the United States of America and other interested countries.

Biological weapons

"Russia is in favour... of the establishment on a multilateral basis of an appropriate monitoring mechanism (for the BW Convention) and for the implementation of measures to build confidence and promote openness.

"Russia, as a party to the 1972 Convention, repudiates those parts of the reservations made by the USSR to the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of chemical and bacteriological methods which relate to the possibility of retaliatory use of biological weapons.

Defence budget

"Russia will continue to make substantial cuts in its defence budget and to apply them to social issues.

"In 1990-1991, defence expenditures in comparable prices were already reduced by 20 per cent, and within this figure expenditures on the purchase of armaments and technology were cut by 30 per cent.

"In 1992, we intend to cut military expenditures by a further 10 per cent (in 1991 prices). The volume of arms production in the coming year will be approximately half that for last year.

Conversion of military production

"Russia welcomes the international cooperation in the field of conversion of military production, and will for its part encourage it by establishing a "most favourable treatment regime" and instituting tax concessions for relevant joint projects....

"These are the main lines of Russia's policy in the field of arms reduction and disarmament. We are open to ideas and proposals from other States aimed at strengthening international peace and security. Through joint efforts, a stable world can and must be guaranteed."□

Summary of planned nuclear disarmament measures

US Ballistic Missiles:

July 1991START measures to limit or cut deployed:

- ICBM and SLBM warheads to 4,900.
- warheads for all strategic weapons to about 10,000.
- strategic nuclear delivery vehicles (ICBMs and SLBMs with their launchers) and heavy bombers to 1,600.

27 September US measures:

- stop development of mobile Midgetman ICBMs.
- remove from alert posture all US ICBMs scheduled for deactivation under START.
- stop all new production of the MX ICBM.

28 January US State of the Union message:

- cancel the Midgetman ICBM programme.
- cease production of new warheads for SLBM's.
- stop all new production of the MX ICBM.
- If the CIS will eliminate all land-based multiple-warhead ballistic missiles, the U.S. will eliminate all 50 MX ICBMs, reduce number of warheads on sea-based missiles by about one third and cut warheads on Minuteman III ICBMs from 3 to 1.

US Nuclear Bombers:

27 September US measures:

- remove all strategic bombers from alert posture.
- cancel programme to build a replacement for nuclear SRAMs on its strategic bombers.

28 JanuaryUS State of the Union message:

- terminate production of the B-2 bomber, after completing 20 aircraft for which procurement has begun.
- convert a "substantial portion" of strategic bombers (B-1B; B-52) to primarily conventional use , if CIS eliminates all land-based multiple warhead ICBMs.

US Tactical Weapons and Cruise Missiles:

27 September US measures:

- remove TOMAHAWK sea-launched cruise missiles from surface ships and destroy or store.
- withdraw all ground-launched tactical and battlefield nuclear weapons, destroy all artillery shells and ground-based short-range ballistic missiles.
- remove all nuclear weapons associated with naval aircraft, dismantling and destroying them and destroying some of the warheads and storing the rest in central areas.

28 January US State of the Union message.

- stop production of advanced cruise missiles.

CIS Ballistic Missiles:

July 1991START measures to limit or cut deployed:

- ICBM and SLBM warheads to 4,900.
- warheads for all strategic weapons to about 8,000.
- strategic nuclear delivery vehicles (deployed ICBMs and SLBMs, with their launchers) and deployed heavy bombers to 1,100.
- warheads on deployed mobile ICMBs to 1,100.
- warheads on heavy ICBMs to 1,540.

5 October CIS measures:

- remove from alert posture 503 ICBMs including 134 mirved ICBMs and withdraw 3 more submarines with 48 launchers beyond the 3 retired.

27 January Russian statement that it would :

- had taken off alert about 600 land-based strategic ballistic missiles, with 1,250 warheads.
- had terminated development or modernization of some new types of strategic offensive arms.
- and was in the process of eliminating 130 ICBM silos and disarming 6 nuclear submarines.

CIS Nuclear Bombers:

July 1991 START measures:

- limit deployed bombers (TU 22-M Backfires) to 300 airforce and 200 naval, none to be given intercontinental capability.

5 October CIS measures:

- keep heavy bombers off alert and store their nuclear weapons.
- halt SRAM development for the Blackjack bomber.

27 January Russian statement that it would:

- halt production of Blackjack and Bear H bombers.

CIS Tactical Weapons and Cruise Missiles:

5 October CIS measures:

- eliminate all nuclear artillery shells and mines and warheads on tactical missiles.
- eliminate some of the nuclear warheads on anti-aircraft missiles, the rest to be stored.

27 January Russian statement that it would:

- halt production of long-range air-launched cruise missiles and curtail that for sea-launched ones.
- stop production of short-range nuclear weapons
- eliminate stocks of all tactical ground-launched nuclear weapons.
- eliminate one third of the sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons and half the nuclear warheads for ground-to-air missiles.
- cut by half its stocks of air-launched tactical nuclear warheads.
- relocate all tactical nuclear warheads to Russia.

UN Security Council summit

Security Council holds first summit-level meeting and issues declaration on its central role in maintaining world peace and security. (UN photo 179216/J. Isaac)

The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security was the topic before the first summit meeting ever held by the UN Security Council.

Meeting on 31 January 1992 at UN Headquarters, the leaders of the fifteen member States on the Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to collective security, peace-making and peace-keeping, and to disarmament and arms control.

Opening statements were made by the Council President, Prime Minister John Major of the UK and by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Mr. Major identified four purposes for the extraordinary meeting: to mark a turning-point in the world and at the United Nations; to reaffirm the principle of collective security and to the resolution of disputes in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter; to consider how best to update the means by which collective security is upheld through the UN; and to make a new commitment to arms control and to restrain the accumulation and transfer of arms and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Secretary-General proposed that the Council meet at the summit level periodically to "take stock of the state of the world", to strengthen the "tone of authority" of the United Nations and to help assure its hoped-for transfiguration. He said political will and imagination could contribute more to peace than military and economic power, and underlined the need for new ways to prevent internal disputes and inter-State confrontations.

Following a full day of meetings addressed by 13 heads of State and Government and two Foreign Ministers, the President of the summit meeting issued an agreed statement on behalf of the members of the Security Council from which the following excerpts are taken.

"The members of the Council, while fully conscious of the responsibilities of other organs of the United Nations in the fields of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, reaffirm the crucial contribution which progress in these areas can make to the maintenance of international peace and security. They express their commitment to take concrete steps to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in these areas.

"The members of the Council underline the need for all Member States to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament; to prevent the proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction; to avoid excessive and destabilizing accumulations and transfers of arms; and to resolve peacefully in accordance with the Charter any problems concerning these matters threatening or disrupting the maintenance of regional and global stability. They emphasize the importance of the early ratification and implementation by the States concerned of all international and regional arms control arrangements, especially the START and CFE Treaties.

"The proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The members of the Council commit themselves to working to prevent the spread of technology related to the research for or production of such weapons and to take appropriate action to that end.

"On nuclear proliferation, they note the importance of the decision of many countries to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and emphasize the integral role in the implementation of that Treaty of fully effective IAEA safeguards, as well as the importance of effective export controls. The members of the Council will take appropriate measures in the case of any violations notified to them by the IAEA.

"On chemical weapons, they support the efforts of the Geneva Conference with a view to reaching agreement on the conclusion, by the end of 1992, of a universal convention, including a verification regime to prohibit chemical weapons.

"On conventional armaments, they note the General Assembly's vote in favour of a United Nations register of arms transfers as a first step, and in this connection recognize the importance of all States providing all the information called for in the General Assembly's resolution.

"In conclusion, the members of the Security Council affirm their determination to build on the initiative of their meeting in order to secure positive advances in promot-

ing international peace and security. They agree that the United Nations Secretary-General has a crucial role to play....

"The members of the Council agree that the world now has the best chance of achieving international peace and security since the foundation of the United Nations. They undertake to work in close cooperation with other United Nations Member States in their own efforts to achieve this, as well as to address urgently all the other problems, in particular those of economic and social development, requiring the collective response of the international community. They recognize that peace and prosperity are indivisible and that lasting peace and stability require effective international cooperation for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of a better life for all in larger freedom."

The participants representing member States at the summit meeting, in the order in which they spoke, were: Prime Minister Major of the United Kingdom, President François Mitterrand of France, President Rodrigo Borja-Cevallos of Ecuador, King Hassan II of Morocco, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, President George Bush of the United States, President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky of Austria; Prime Minister Wilfried Martens of Belgium; Prime Minister Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga of Cape Verde, Premier Li Peng of China, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of India; Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan; Geza Jeszensky, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and Nathan Shamu-yarira, MInister of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe.□

Security Council acts on Somalia

Meeting on 17 March, the UN Security Council expressed its strong support for the decision of the Secretary-General to dispatch a technical team to Somalia to prepare a plan for a cease-fire monitoring mechanism. It also asked that the team develop a high-priority plan to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to that country.

The resolution adopted provided that the technical team is to be dispatched urgently; the Secretary-General is to submit expeditiously a report to the Council on the matter; and the coordinator charged with supervising the delivery of humanitarian assistance is also to accompany the technical team to Somalia.

The resolution also urged the Somali factions to honour their commitment under the cease-fire agreements of 3 March, and to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need of it.

All parties, movements and factions in Somalia, particularly in Mogadiscio, were called upon to respect the security and safety of the technical team and the personnel of the humanitarian organizations, and to guarantee their freedom of movement in the country.

The Secretary-General was requested to use all resources at his disposal to address urgently the critical needs of the affected population in Somalia. He was also called upon to continue, in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Conference, his consultation with all Somali parties towards convening a conference for national reconciliation and unity in the country.□

Developments in Afghanistan

In a statement of 27 January, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that diverse voices from a wide variety of Afghan representatives of the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan had urged him to "convene a gathering of Afghans in order to agree upon a transition period and a transition mechanism, leading to the establishment of a broad-based government through free and fair elections".

Support for a comprehensive political settlement has grown since the United Nations set out a five-point plan on 21 May 1991. This plan calls for international acceptance of Afghan sovereignty, self-determination without outside interference, implementation of a transitional period for forming a new government, an end to supplying arms to both sides, and international assistance for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and for economic reconstruction.

The Soviet-United States joint statement of 13 September 1991 marked an important step towards achieving these goals. The two signatories pledged to support a democratic electoral process free from manipulation or interference. They also agreed that a cessation of hostilities was essential for peaceful elections and for a lasting political settlement.

To facilitate this cessation, they agreed to discontinue their weapons deliveries to all Afghan groups. They also agreed that a cease-fire and a cut-off of weapons deliveries from all other sources should follow this step. They agreed further to work towards withdrawal of major weapons systems from Afghanistan.□

IAEA to strengthen nuclear safeguards inspection regime

Demonstration plant for irradiation sterilization of medical products near Bombay, India. (UN photo 126335/Trombay)

On 26 February 1992 the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency agreed to a number of measures to strengthen the Agency' safeguards system, including its ability to conduct special inspections.

The Board reaffirmed the Agency's right to undertake special inspections in Member States with comprehensive safeguards agreements when necessary and appropriate. It also reaffirmed its rights to obtain and to have access to additional information and locations in accordance with the Agency's Statute and all comprehensive safeguards agreements.

Proposals prepared by the IAEA Secretariat were also studied. These dealt with the reporting and verification of exports, imports and production of nuclear material, sensitive equipment and certain non-nuclear materials, and included measures whereby States would provide IAEA with information to enable it to verify the consistency of reported inventories with the nuclear activities declared by each State.

During a press conference on 27 February, IAEA Director General Hans Blix said that the Board had made good progress on the strengthening of safeguards and that special inspections had now been approved. It was expected that such inspections would be rare.

Information leading to special inspections might come from IAEA inspectors, from governments or from the media, although he said that most of the recent media reports of alleged trafficking in nuclear material had been investigated and had proved to be unfounded.

A further step had been taken by agreeing to the early submission of nuclear facility design information to IAEA. By having this information at the planning stage there would be a better opportunity to make facilities "safeguards friendly" and more openness would thus be encouraged.

As regards the decision of the Board to take up at the next meeting the question of notification of exports, imports and production of sensitive technology and nuclear and non-nuclear materials, the cost of such a system had to be reviewed. The aim was to build up an "Early Warning" system to spot any mismatch between a declared programme and the volume of imports.□

Safeguards assurances from Syria

During a February visit to Syria by the Director General of IAEA, the Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs informed the Director General that Syria had decided to conclude a safeguards agreement with IAEA pursuant to its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty.

Syria became a party to the NPT in 1968. Syria also informed IAEA that the miniature research reactor project, now pending before the Board of Governors of IAEA, would be subject to the safeguards agreement.

The Director General, in accordance with a mandate given to him by the General Conference of IAEA, also discussed with the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs comprehensive safeguards arrangements that might possibly be used in the future by States in the Middle East. The conclusion of a safeguards agreement by Syria was viewed as a positive step towards a general acceptance of comprehensive safeguards in the region.

The Government of Syria expressed its continuous support for the IAEA safeguards system and its willingness to cooperate fully with the Agency in the implementation of safeguards in Syria.

During his time in Syria, the Director General of IAEA visited its Atomic Energy Commission facilities. The meetings confirmed the benefit for Syria of greater use of nuclear techniques for medicine, agriculture and industry and the supporting role of IAEA technical assistance.□

China ratifies NPT

On 9 March, the Government of China sent its documents of ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to the UK and US as depositary States of the Treaty.

The Treaty was opened for signature on 1 July 1968 and came into force on 5 March 1970. There are now 147 parties including 4 of the 5 declared nuclear-weapon States. France, which has not acceded, has declared its intention to do so at an early date.

During 1991, the number of parties increased from 141 to 146 with the accession of Lithuania, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.□

North Korea signs IAEA safeguards agreement

On 30 January the Government of North Korea signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which, once ratified, will permit the inspection and verification of its nuclear materials.

At the signing ceremony, the Director General of IAEA,Dr. Hans Blix, said that he was pleased that an agreement had now been signed whereby North Korea will be "submitting all nuclear material and facilities" in the country "present and future — to IAEA safeguards verification".

IAEA safeguards are applied to verify that the parties to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty of 1968 (NPT) are using all their nuclear material and installations for exclusively peaceful purposes. North Korea became a party to the NPT in December 1985.

To create the openness that is necessary for confidence, regionally and globally, IAEA safeguards must be effective and comprehensive, Dr. Blix stated, adding that the member States in IAEA are now working to strengthen them.

In a statement of 20 February, President Kim Il Sung reaffirmed the North Korean assertion that "we do not make nuclear weapons nor do we have any need to do so, to say nothing of the fact that we do not have them".

At the same time it is widely reported that North Korean nuclear facilities include a reprocessing plant which would be capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium. Consequently, the member States of IAEA have urged North Korea to ratify its safeguards agreement to reassure the international community regarding the use of its nuclear materials. □

Algeria concludes IAEA safeguards agreement

On 27 February, Algeria signed its second safeguards agreement with IAEA permitting inspection of a 15 megawatt heavy water research reactor supplied to it by China. This reactor which is located in the Atlas mountains south of Algiers, is expected to be put into operation later this year.

Algeria, which is not a party to the NPT, does not have a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA, and the agreement concluded relates only to safeguarding the research reactor, its fuel and the heavy water supplied by China. The reactor has been visited on two occasions by IAEA staff.□

Libya ready to invite inspection of any site

During an official visit to Libya, the Director General of IAEA was assured that Libya was in no way preparing for any military application of nuclear energy and that recent media reports about recruitment of Soviet nuclear scientists were without any foundation, as were allegations that equipment recently stopped at Frankfurt airport had any nuclear relevance .

Libya, which became a party to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty in 1975, assured IAEA of its continuous support for the IAEA safeguards system and willingness to cooperate fully with the Agency in implementing safeguards in Libya.

It was agreed that just as safeguards should be capable of discovering any diversions of nuclear material, inspection is also of use to dispel any doubts that may have arisen. Libya declared that it was ready to invite IAEA to send inspectors to any site it might wish to visit in the future.□

Treaty of Tlatelolco anniversary

On 14 February, which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, a Joint Statement by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil was sent to the commemorative meeting held in Mexico City.

In their statement, they said that, at the earliest possible opportunity, they would submit for the consideration of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) some technical amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. They requested all countries in the area covered by the Treaty to support their initiative which they said is to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty.

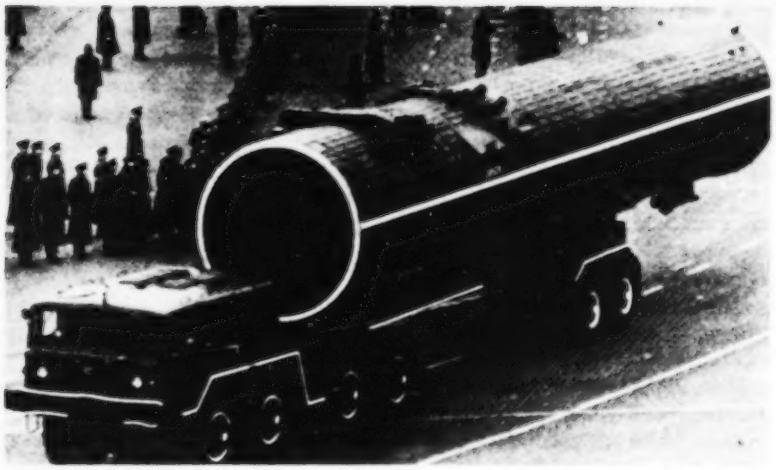
In the same statement, Argentina and Brazil congratulated the Government of France on its decision to ratify Additional Protocol I of the Treaty. They said that such a decision would contribute to establishing definitively the legal validity of the Treaty for the entire region.

France, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA have signed — and all but France have ratified — Protocol I by which the Tlatelolco norms are to apply to territories in the Treaty zone for which they are internationally responsible.

All five nuclear-weapons States have ratified Additional Protocol II obligating them to respect the provisions of denuclearization of the entire area defined in the Treaty and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapon against any Party to the Treaty.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco has 27 States parties in Latin America and the Caribbean although Argentina has not ratified it and Brazil, Chile, and Dominica have not waived the condition needed for it to enter into force for them. □

Ballistic missile defence



The Galosh surface-to-air anti-ballistic missile was deployed around Moscow from 1973 with 98 missiles operational in 1986, two less than the ABM Treaty permits.

In a public statement of 27 September 1991 announcing United States plans to withdraw, destroy or store a number of tactical nuclear weapons, US President Bush also called for full funding of the US Strategic Defence Initiative. He made this plea for SDI after having noted that some 15 to 20 nations had or would soon have ballistic missiles.

Accordingly, he said he was calling on Soviet leadership to join the United States in "taking immediate concrete steps to permit the limited deployment of non-nuclear defenses to protect against limited ballistic missile strikes — whatever their source — without undermining the credibility of existing deterrent forces".

In his January 1992 State of the Union message, President Bush referred to the need for protection from limited nuclear missile attack, because "too many countries have access to nuclear arms".

Also at the end of January, Russian President Yeltsin confirmed his country's adherence to the Treaty on anti-ballistic missiles, calling it "one of the effective means of limiting the strategic arms race".

At the same time he said that Russia was prepared to continue discussion of the US proposal on limited non-nuclear anti-ballistic missile systems. President Yeltsin said that if such an approach would strengthen strategic stability in the world, and Russia's security, his country would support it.

He also declared that Russia was ready, on a basis of reciprocity with the United States, to eliminate existing anti-satellite systems and to work out an agreement for a total ban on weapons specially designed to attack satellites.

Russia was prepared, he stated, to work out jointly, and then to establish and jointly operate, a global defence system to replace the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Anti-ballistic missile defences are prohibited by the ABM Treaty of 1972 , with the exception of two sites per party with no more than 100 launchers per site. In 1974 the Soviet Union and the United States signed a protocol limiting each side to one ABM deployment area only.

Accordingly, in 1973 the Soviet Union deployed an anti-missile system around Moscow which is still in place. While the United States began installing anti-ballistic missiles at the designated site at Grand Forks, North Decota, it was dismantled before it was fully operational.

A widely discussed aspect of the current US missile defence concept is called Global Protection Against Limited Strikes or GPALS. Put forward by the US Department of Defense in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, it is a scaled-down version of earlier space-based anti-missile interceptor proposals.

GPALS is intended to counter accidental, unauthorized missile launches as well as deliberate missile attacks from sources that cannot be readily anticipated.

In approving the Missile Defense Act of 1991, the US Congress authorized a ground-based defence system small enough to stay within the bounds of the ABM Treaty. This could lead to reopening the site at Grand Forks, North Dakota by 1996 and deploying 100 anti-ballistic missiles there.

The United States has put forward proposals to consider amending the ABM Treaty to allow for deploying some 1,000 to 2,000 non-nuclear interceptors at additional ground-based ABM sites.

In the US planning, deploying a variety of space-based sensors has been considered in order to have the capacity to detect and track ballistic missiles in flight and to complement ground-based radar and command and control facilities. Research is also being done on space-based weapons known as "brilliant pebbles" which would be able to destroy ICBMs shortly after their launch.

Another part of the planning would involve the development and deployment of anti-theatre ballistic missiles. Such an ATBM system would be built on the basis of the technology of the Patriot anti-missile missiles. ATBMs would intercept short-range missiles such as the SCUD.

At the end of October 1991, the United States Congress authorized $4.15 billion for anti-missile research for fiscal year 1992 — $1 billion more than for 1991. An additional $390 million was approved for space-based "brilliant pebbles" interceptors.□

Ballistic missile detection centre discussed

On 18 February Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and United States Secretary of State James A. Baker opened talks on plans to establish a ballistic missile early-warning centre. Meeting in Moscow, they said the proposed centre would constitute the first effort at concrete defence cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United States.

US officials said the proposed centre would bring together all NATO and Russian radar plus satellite and other early warning systems in a single location, where all participants could monitor virtually any ballistic missile launching worldwide. The location of the proposed centre has yet to be determined.

The intended participation in the centre would include all or most NATO member States, a number of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and also other States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).□

International science and technology centre

Meeting in Brussels on 12 March, foreign ministers of a number of European countries, plus Japan, Canada and the United States, discussed details of setting up an international centre in Moscow to be a clearing house for jobs for nuclear scientists of the former Soviet Union.

The centre, which was formally proposed by Germany in January, will provide training and organize exchange projects and provide support to scientists to enable them to engage in long-term scientific research involving the peaceful application of their expertise.□

New UN, CSCE, NACC members

Ten of the new States that were formerly republics in the Soviet Union have joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and eight of them have also joined the United Nations.

The North Atlantic Cooperation Council was initiated by NATO in November 1991 to provide a more institutional relationship of consultation and cooperation on political and security issues for the 16 NATO member States together with the six States of the former Warsaw Treaty Organization and the three Baltic States. With the ten States that joined on 10 March — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine — the total number of NACC States is 35, 16 in NATO and 19 others.

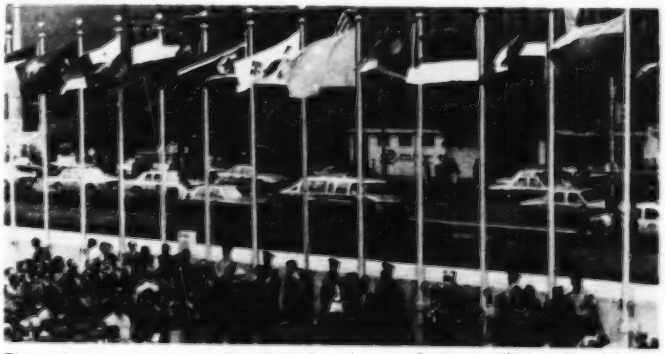
The same ten States joined the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on 30 January, bringing the total number to 48. These are all the members of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council plus Albania, Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Holy See, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Sweden , Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Foreign Ministers of CSCE member States met in Prague to formally welcome the new members. Russia had already assumed the seat held by the former Soviet Union, and Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia had joined in 1991.

With the admission of nine new States to the United Nations on 2 March, there are now 175 Member States. The nine which joined in March are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, San Marino, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Seven States joined in 1991: three Baltic States — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the two Korean States, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Belarus and Ukraine had been Members of the United Nations since its founding as was the Soviet Union to which the Russian Federation is the successor State.

At a flag-raising ceremony for the nine new States admitted to U. N. membership on 2 March, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that the membership of the UN had more than tripled since its founding in 1945 and that the significant number of new States admitted within the past six months represented a major step towards the goal of universality.□



Flag-raising ceremony marks admission of seven States to UN membership on 17 September 1991. (UN photo 178025/E. Debebe)

UN strengthens role in El Salvador

On 16 January the Peace Agreement previously negotiatiated at the end of 1991 between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was signed at Mexico City. It contains the full set of political agreements designed to put a definitive end to the Salvadorian armed conflict.

Two days earlier, on 14 January, the Security Council acted to enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). And on 16 January it voted to dissolve the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and to transfer its personnel and equipment to ONUSAL.

Enlarging the mandate and capacity of ONUSAL involves establishing a military division to verify the cease-fire agreement of 31 December 1991 which came into force on 1 February 1992.

Both sides are to provide the UN observers with full inventories of their troops and weapons. The FMLN forces are to be dismantled and their weapons handed over to ONUSAL.

The Security Councilresolution of 14 January also calls for a police division to monitor the maintenance of public order until a new national civil police can be organized.

The enlargement calls for an additional 1,000 military and police personnel and 95 civilian staff, and is estimated at $58.9 million through 31 October 1992 when its mandate will be reviewed. The 12-year civil war in El Salvador had claimed over 70,000 lives ravaged the economy and destroyed the countryside.

ONUCA was the first major UN peace-keeping operation in the Americas.It was established at the request of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to verify the implementation of agreements to prevent external support for insurgent groups in the region and to prevent territories of those countries from being used to launch attacks against other States.

ONUCA helped in the process of transition following the February 1990 election in Nicaragua, including demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance and monitoring of the cease-fire in Nicaragua.

The five countries in which ONUCA was deployed were informed on 2 January of the Secretary-General's intention. Both Costa Rica and Honduras expressed concern about the departure of UN observers going to El Salvador.

Nonetheless, the Secretary-General had concluded that the time had come for the Security Council to decide to terminate the mandate of ONUCA.

In his report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General referred to an earlier report of his predecessor in which he had indicated that an early and successful conclusion to the peace process in El Salvador would make it necessary to reconsider ONUCA's future.

He had also referred to the cost of meeting the ever-growing demand for peace-making and peace-keeping activities by the United Nations and to the widely held view that peace-keeping operations should be set up to do a specific task for a specific period and then be disbanded.□

UNDP assists El Salvador in setting up new police force

In an unprecedented move, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will help the Government of El Salvador set up a national civilian police force as part of the country's reconstruction programme.

The new police force will replace the present one, which will be completely dismantled as provided for in the cease-fire agreement signed in New York on 31 December 1991 and in the Peace Agreement signed in Mexico City on 16 January 1992 by the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Some 5,000 police cadres are to be trained over a two-year period with UNDP support. Unlike the former police force, which was under the aegis of the armed forces, the new police force will be trained to enforce law and order while guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Training and establishing the new police force is expected to cost close to $6 million; money to be raised through an appeal to the international community.

UNDP is the largest source of multilateral grant development assistance and has an annual budget of $1.3 billion. Over the last 30 years UNDP has been active in El Salvador, supporting programmes ranging from science and technology, health, education and employment to industry and international trade.□

New developments in Cambodia

Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia arrived in Phnom Penh on 15 March to begin the most extensive peacekeeping operation ever attempted by the United Nations.

He will preside over the progressive deployment of the military and civilian components of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Earlier in the week, there were a number of rocket and mortar attacks north of Phnom Penh which UN officials described as the heaviest in more than a year and the worst cease-fire violation since the Paris Peace Agreements were adopted by the Paris Conference on Cambodia on 23 October 1991.

Under these Agreements, which entered into force at the time of their signature, UNTAC is mandated to assist the parties to maintain their cease-fire. It will supervise the cease-fire and verify the cessation of outside military assistance.

The Agreements provide that immediately upon their entry into force, any foreign forces, advisers, and military personnel remaining in Cambodia, together with their weapons, ammunition, and equipment, are to be permanently withdrawn. This permanent withdrawal is to be verified by UNTAC.

The Paris Agreements also specify that a cease-fire was to take effect at the time the Agreement entered into force.

At the time of the adoption of the Paris Agreements, the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) and the Cambodian parties had agreed to delegate to the United Nations "all powers necessary" to enable UNTAC to discharge its mandate and to extend full cooperation to UNTAC.

On 28 February 1992 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 745 which approved the plan of the Secretary-General for implementing the mandate envisaged for UNTAC in the Paris Agreements. Two weeks earlier the General Assembly had appropriated an initial sum of $200 million to cover the start-up costs of UNTAC.

By 15 March only a small part of the planned UNTAC forces had arrived in Cambodia. In addition to a few hundred Indonesian troops, there were also small contingents from 12 other countries.

Some 20 countries are expected to provide troops to UNTAC. The purpose of the peacekeeping units will be to facilitate the regroupment and cantonment of the armed forces of the various Cambodian factions and to ensure a 70% level of disarmament and demobilization.

On 11 March, with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General appointed Lieutenant-General John M. Sanderson (Australia) as Force Commander of the military component of UNTAC.

The overall goal of the United Nations in Cambodia is to encourage the establishment of a neutral political environment within which the people of Cambodia can participate in free and democratic elections which will be organized and conducted by the United Nations.

The military and civilian staff of UNTAC is expected to number some 22,000. In addtion to the military component, others in

Cambodian refugees in the Khao-I-Dang Holding Centre in Thailand. (UNHCR photo 21070/10.1991/k. Singhaseni)

UNTAC have been assigned to deal with: human rights, electoral issues, rehabilitation and programme development, civil administration, the establishment of a civilian police force and the repatriation of refugees.

On his arrival in Cambodia, Mr. Akashi said that he expected all parties to the Paris Agreements to comply scrupulously and in good faith with the commitments they had freely entered into. He would also expect them, in accordance with Security Council resolution 745, to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all United Nations personnel.

He said that the SNC would have a crucial role to play in the implementation of the Agreements. It would provide a forum in which the Cambodian parties can resolve their differences and achieve a genuine national reconciliation. It was only by working together in a constructive spirit that the members of the SNC would be able to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Paris Agreements, he stated.□

Mines in warfare and after

The reconstruction of Cambodia is plagued by mines that were laid by all the parties to the 12-year conflict. The primary aim of laying mines during the years of war was to deny the opposition forces access to bridges, roads and strategic installations.

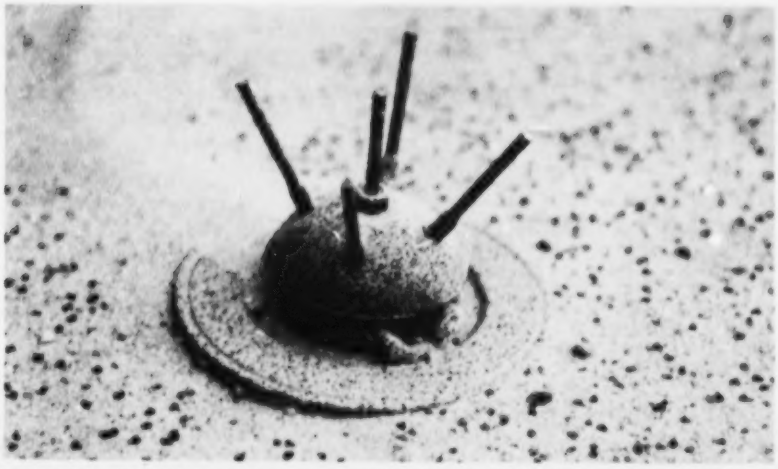
Mines were also used to secure trade routes and as offensive weapons which were placed around a village or military camp which was then bombarded with artillery, forcing people to flee into minefields.

The consequent sheer numbers of land mines resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths and injuries. The density of mines is high in many areas and especially high along Cambodia's border with Thailand. This can be inferred from the numbers removed from specific areas by clearance teams.

The problem of clearing mines presents a major challenge to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The Paris Agreements of 23 October 1991 provide that UNTAC will assist with clearing mines and undertake training programmes in mine clearance and mine-awareness. The Agreements state that soon after arrival in Cambodia, the military components of UNTAC "shall ensure, as a first step, that all known minefields are clearly marked".

The parties to the Paris Agreements also state (in annex 2) that they will make available mine-clearing teams which, under the supervision and control of UNTAC military personnel, will assist in removing, disarming or deactivating remaining unexploded ordnance devices.



A mine laid by the Iraqi occupation forces near the oil-fields of Al Wafra in southern Kuwait. (UN photo 158198/J. Isaac)

Those mines or objects which cannot be removed, disarmed or deactivated are to be clearly marked in accordance with a system to be devised by the military component of UNTAC.

It appears that neither the Phnom Penh Government nor the resistance forces kept systematic records of mined areas. One reason is that mines were frequently distributed to troops and laid by them without any general plan.

The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) has had a mandate to establish a mine-awareness programme to be implemented by small teams of military personnel with experience in training civilian populations on how to avoid injuries from mines and booby-traps.

Initially, the teams are giving priority to populations living in or close to areas of recent military confrontation. In due course, this initial effort is to be expanded into the full programme foreseen in the Paris Agreements.

The mine-awareness programme is being carried out in consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), giving priority to clearing mines on repatriation routes, at reception centres and in resettlement areas.

Protocol II of the inhumane weapons Convention of 1980 (the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects) requires that minefields either be carefully mapped to facilitate removal after active hostilities, or that they consist of mines that will self-destruct reasonably rapidly so as not to be a long-lasting hazard. It also calls for international cooperation in the removal of minefields, mines and booby-traps.

In 1982, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on "remnants of war" which discusses wider aspects of the question of mines.

It states that the responsibility for the removal of the remnants of war should be borne by the countries that planted them, and regrets that "no real measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted on the subject by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme".

This General Assembly resolution is fully compatible with the provisions of Protocol II to the inhumane weapons Convention. Also the asserted primary obligation to remove remnants of war and the secondary one to pay compensation are consonant with article 24 (a) of the draft articles on International Liability for Injurious Consequences arising out of Acts not Prohibited by the International Law Commission.□

Update on weapons in Iraq

On 12 March the Security Council called on Iraq to take appropriate actions immediately to comply fully and unconditionally with its obligations under the Council resolutions mandating the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and all related facilities for their production.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had said all proscribed weapons had been destroyed. However, he objected to the destruction of equipment that could be converted to civilian or non-banned production. He said Iraq had accepted resolution 687, and had done so comprehensively.

As for whether Iraq would implement decisions reached by the Special Commission and IAEA, he said the question was hypothetical. He was fully prepared to answer any other questions which might arise in order to dispel all confusion between Iraq and the Council on the implementation of resolution 687.

Ambassador Thomas Pickering of the United States, speaking immediately after Mr. Aziz welcomed the reopening of the channels of communication with Iraq concerning resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) (concerning Iraq's obligations to supply its civilian population with needed humanitarian assistance, particularly food and medicine), but he wondered why the Council was still talking about Iraq's commitments and obligations under resolution 687 which he reminded Iraq was a mandatory resolution.

Once again, there was broad and general acceptance of a resolution, but with all kinds of new provisos, reservations, pre-conditions and so forth.

There was a seeming indication that a little negotiation would provide a full and complete declaration, he said. But it was Iraq which knew what it had in its arsenals, what it was building and what production equipment was available to do so on 2 August 1990 and indeed on every single date and at every single hour subsequent to that time. We still have not seen that list, Mr. Pickering said. It was not up to the Special Commission to produce that list: it was up to Iraq.

There were many areas of discussion, but he had concluded that there was a willingness to discuss at great length but not a willingness to comply. That was a miscalculation on Iraq's part, he said.

Sir David Hannay of the UK thanked Deputy Prime Minister Aziz for his answers although he felt bound to register that some of them were evasive and therefore not satisfactory. He said that the exchange had shown that these problems of compliance would never be resolved by words — they would have to be resolved by deeds.

At a press briefing later on 12 March given by Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on the Disarmament of Iraq, and by Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Ekeus noted that the Security Council members had found the Government of Iraq to be in continuing material breach of resolution 687 (1991).

Mr. Ekeus recalled that his statement to the Security Council of the previous day had expressed the Commission's continuing dissatisfaction that Iraq had not made any statement of cooperation with the destruction activities for ballistic missiles and other weapons. It was hoped that the firm response of the Security Council would convince Iraq to honour its obligations and take appropriate action.

Following the 12 March meeting of the Security Council , an Iraqi technical team met officials from the Office of the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission. During the meetings, on 12 and 13 March, the Special Commission explained in detail to the Iraqi delegation what it expected of Iraq in the way of:

— Full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects of Iraq's programmes for weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres;

— Implementation of the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification of its dual-purpose facilities and items, used for permitted purposes, in order to ensure that Iraq did not reacquire prohibited items;

— Methodology for the complete destruction of the proscribed equipment related to its ballistic missiles programmes identified by the Special Commission in its letter to the Iraqi authorities of 14 February 1992.

On 19 March the Permanent Representative of Iraq, Abd al-Amir Al-Anbari, handed over a letter undertaking to destroy the items associated with Iraq's ballistic missiles programmes identified for destruction by the Commission in its letter of 14 February to the Iraqi authority.

He also provided new information on Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical weapons capabilities and stated the willingness of Iraq to make the full, final and complete disclosure of its programmes that the Commission had been seeking.

The new information is being assessed at Headquarters and by the ballistic missile inspection team that arrived in Iraq on 21 March.□

NGO news items

The brief report below on activities of non-governmental organizations includes some of the events and programmes which have come to the attention of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The choice of coverage does not imply any judgement by the United Nations.

The 2nd General Assembly of the **Helsinki Citizens Assembly** (HCA) took place in Bratislava, CSFR from 26-29 March 1992 addressing the theme New Walls in Europe: Nationalism and Racism — Civic Solutions. Among the topics addressed by over 500 social movement members from many of the 48 CSCE countries were: Nationalism and Confederal Structures; Peace and Demilitarisation; Migration; National Armies, A European Army, or a Gun for Everyone; Religion, State and Society; and Ecological Problems in East and Central Europe. **Contact:** HCA Secretariat, Panská 7 116 69, Praha, CSFR. (Tel: 42 2 220181; 2368441; 2368438. Fax: 42 2 220 948)

The **Internaional Peace Bureau** will hold its Centenary Conference from 25 to 30 August 1992. It will be based in Helsinki, Finland with branch seminars in Tampere, Finland, St. Petersburg, Russia, Tallinn, Estonia and Stockholm, Sweden. Seminar themes, which are to be treated in an analytic way, include Science, Technology, Armament and War; Dimensions of People Power: Domination, Collective Action, Liberation and Defence; War and the Mass Media; the Future of the UN; Active Peace Making; and Women & Men, Peace & War. **Contact:** Steven Huxley, Conference Secretary, Mtesäpurontie 18 B 18, 00630 Helsinki 63, Finland. (Tel: 358 0 7542734, Fax: 358 0 7542296)

The **Peace to the Oceans Committee** based in Moscow, Russia, participated in August 1991 in the 10th Convention for Nuclear Disarmament in Europe which was held in Moscow. In October it organized a Soviet-South Korean seminar on naval disarmament and marine ecology. Members of the committee also participated in 12 events abroad including a UN seminar held in Varna, Bulgaria on confidence-building measures in the maritime environment a Norwegian-Soviet seminar on the the problems of security and cooperation in Europe, a Greek-Soviet seminar in Piraeus and the 8th British-Soviet symposium on the present-day problems of the world ocean. Also, members of the Committee took an active part in inter-republican conferences and seminars in Moscow, Sochi, Kerch, Yalta, Odessa, Murmansk, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk where they discussed problems of marine ecology, naval disarmament and the conversion of naval production to peaceful uses. Members of the committee participated in the decommissioning of submarines with nuclear ballistic missiles on board in the Baltic fleet, and other ships of the Black Sea fleet and the Pacific fleet. The Committee has invited foreign firms to support the building of an ocean-going peace-making liner which would carry "people's diplomacy" representatives and sail under the UN flag. The Peace to the Oceans Committee publishes a bulletin in Russian and English. **Contact:** Pyotr D. Barabolya, Mira Prospekt 36, Moscow, Russia, I-10, 129010. (Tel: 7 095 280 71 12, Fax: 7 095 288 95 87)

The **Special NGO Committee for Disarmament** in Geneva organized a seminar on Arms and Disarmament, Views from the South on 24 & 25 October 1991 at the Palais des Nations. The main speakers were Mr. Agha Shahi of Pakistan on Disarmament, Security and the New World Order; Mr. Yash Tandon of Zimbabwe on Militarism and the International Arms Trade, View from the South; and Mr. Fernando Quiros of Peru on Armament and Disarmament, a Latin American Perspective. A transcript is available. **Contact:** Special NGO Committee for Disarmament: Case postale 50, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. (Tel: 41 22 733 61 75, Fax: 41 22 740 10 63)

The **NGO Committee on Disarmament Inc.**, the **Special NGO Committee on Disarmament** in Geneva, and the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** held three forums at UN Headquarters in New York during the 4th Prep. Comm. of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Topics included The Impact of the Military on the Environment : Toxic and Nuclear Wastes, their Creation and Removal; and Structuring Disarmament Regimes to Aid Development and Protect the Environment.

The **NGO Committee on Disarmament, Inc**. hosted a dialogue on 6 February between Dr. William Epstein and Dr. Homer Jack on The United Nations Role in the Gulf War for which there is a transcript available. The Committee also organized a briefing for NGO representatives by Dr. Hans Günter Brauch on 27 February on Institutional Components of a European Security Structure for the Year 2000. **Contact**: NGO Committee on Disarmament, 777 UN Plaza, N.Y. 10017. USA (Tel: 1 212 687 5340)